

Prof. Itzik Mizrahi

Faculty of Life Sciences

Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Itzik Mizrahi earned his bachelor's degree at Tel Aviv University. Itzik was on the Dean's List all three years of his study, and in the third year he was on the Rector's list, after which he continued within the framework of the excellence doctoral studies program at Tel Aviv University. In this track, the candidates are allowed to choose the research field, and Itzik chose the field of microbiology. During his doctorate, he received excellence teaching awards and published six articles. After his doctorate, Itzik worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the Technion Institute for Molecular Biology in Stem Cell Research. After completing his postdoctoral training, he accepted the position of a research group leader in the field of microbiology at the Volcani Agricultural Research Institute. While at the Volcani Institute, Itzik identified the area of microbial ecology and the relationship between microorganisms and their hosts as the central field of his research. His main focus was the understanding of the relationship between the composition of the intestinal microbial communities and the functioning of their hosts.

In 2015, Itzik transferred to an associate professorship position in the Department of Life Sciences, Ben-Gurion University (BGU) of the Negev and a member of the National Institute of Biotechnology in the Negev (NIBN), where he continues his unique approach in the area of microbial ecology. Since his tenure at BGU, he has instituted international and bi-lateral courses and workshops, including a joint Microbial ecology course with MIT.

In this field, Itzik has made several discoveries that earned him the Shilo Prize for outstanding young scientists from the Israeli Society of Microbiology and was later elected as treasurer of the Society. In addition, he was recently selected as a National Academy of Sciences Kavli Frontiers of Science Fellow for exceptional young scientists and is a recipient of the prestigious European Union Research Grant (ERC). Since 2011, Itzik has been invited to speak at an average of 6 national and international conferences per year, in addition to 2-3 invited talks per year at major US and European universities. He serves as editor of several leading journals in the field of microbial ecology.